



MASTER PLAN UPDATE

James A. Noyes
Director

County of Los Angeles
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PROPOSITION 40

PROTECTING CALIFORNIA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

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Just two years ago, California voters passed Propositions 12 and 13, which provided over \$4 billion in funding for protecting land and recreational resources, of which over \$85 million was designated for Los Angeles River interests. On March 5, 2002, voters once again supported the effort to protect these resources and passed Proposition 40, the "California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002." Proposition 40 would provide approximately \$2.6 billion for acquisition and development projects as follows:

- \$225,000,000 - for acquisition and development of the state park system
- \$832,500,000 - for local assistance programs for the acquisition

and development of neighborhood, community, and regional parks and recreation areas.

- \$1,275,000,000 - for land, air, and water conservation programs, including acquisition for those purposes.
- \$267,500,000 - for the acquisition, restoration, preservation, and interpretation of California's historical and cultural resources.

It is undetermined how much funding will be allocated toward the Los Angeles River. However, funding will be allocated for grant disbursements through some of the affected jurisdictional agencies which include the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, and the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Department of Parks and Recreation prepared estimates for preliminary allocations of the Per Capita and RZH grants. This table represents the allocations for jurisdictions within Los Angeles County.

PER CAPITA GRANT ALLOCATIONS	
County of Los Angeles and Regional Park Districts	\$ 37.5 million
Cities	\$ 59.8 million
RZH BLOCK GRANT ALLOCATIONS	
County of Los Angeles and Regional Park Districts	\$ 20.4 million
Cities	\$ 33.6 million

LOS ANGELES RIVER EVENTS

La Gran Limpieza

Friends of the Los Angeles River held the 13th Annual River Clean-up on May 4, 2002. The event took place at 11 river and tributary sites including Ti-junga Wash, Sepulveda Basin, Griffith Park, Los Feliz, Gateway Park, Elysian Valley, City of Bell, Compton Creek, Willow Street in Long Beach, and the Golden Shore Wetlands in Long Beach.

Earth Day 2002 Cudahy and South Gate

On April 20, 2002, Assemblymember Marco Firebaugh's office, with the assistance from Calpirg and the Cities of Cudahy and South Gate, hosted a river clean-up Earth Day event. Students from local schools assisted with cleaning up trash along the river and painting over graffiti. The event was a success, as it promoted community awareness for the River and provided education on improving water quality.

2ND ANNUAL LOS ANGELES RIVER RIDE

The Los Angeles County Bikeway Coalition held its Second Annual Los Angeles River Ride on May 19, 2002. There were a total of 1027 bicyclists that participated in various bike rides (2K, 40K, and 100K), with over 450 bicyclists completing the 40K ride from Glendale to Long Beach. The ride began at the Autry Museum and the pit stops included the River Center and Gardens in Cypress Park, Ralph Dills Park in the City of Paramount, and the Bike Station in downtown Long Beach. The event would not have been a success without the assistance from sponsors including Supervisor Gloria Molina's Office, Supervisor Don Knabe's Office, TPL, KCAL9, KEarth 101 FM, Autry Museum, LA Downtown News, MTA, KHS Bicycles, AAA, The Gas Company, LA Weekly, and the River Center and Gardens.

In addition, 100 volunteers assisted with ensuring the event's success.

The River Ride is the largest yearly event held along the river and, thus, provides an educational opportunity to bring awareness to the river and the bikeway. The ride coincidentally begins and ends in the soft-bottom reaches of the river - the Glendale Narrows and Long Beach, respectively. Participants are able to visit project landmarks along the river, such as the Alex Baum Bridge and pocket parks. However, more importantly, the participants became familiar with the river's potential and provided further support for connecting the river bikeway.



EARTH DAY 2002 AT TAYLOR YARD

The River Project, with the support and participation of North East Trees and the Coalition for a State Park at Taylor Yard, held a restoration and clean-up event on April 20, 2002, along the east bank of the Los Angeles River at Fletcher Drive. The event, which was funded with a grant from the California State Parks Foundation, attracted over 300 volunteers from various organizations. The participants collected almost 3.5 tons of trash and recyclables and planted 156 oak, walnut, and elderberry trees and 66 toyon shrubs, within a quarter-mile river segment. The event proved to be a success for the community, as it signified the creation of the gateway to the future state park at Taylor Yard. The event was also part of North East Trees' Taylor Yard to Sunnynook Landscaping Project, which should be completed by fall 2002.



Site Preparation and Tree Planting—photo courtesy of Melanie Winter

LONG BEACH RESTORATION EFFORTS

In February 2001, CH2M Hill completed the Dominguez Gap wetlands study for the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works. The Dominguez Gap Spreading Grounds are located along the Los Angeles River, between Del Amo Boulevard and the 405 Freeway in the City of Long Beach. The study identified alternatives for a wetlands development which would include recreational and educational features, along with elements of flood protection and water conservation.

CH2M Hill also recently completed a study for the City of Long Beach. The City and the State Coastal Conservancy funded the DeForest Nature Center and Sixth Street Sites Wetland Feasibility Study to identify alternatives for establishing a wetlands habitat along the river from DeForest Park to Del Amo Boulevard and adjacent to Sixth Street below Shoe-

maker Bridge. The study identified alternatives, which focus on establishing native habitat, increasing public use, and providing water treatment for reuse.

While both studies have been completed, the development is currently on hold until the Water Replenishment District (WRD) completes their water reuse study. WRD is researching potential uses for the water that Caltrans dewaterers from the 105 Freeway. There are hopes that the water would be used to sustain the wetlands along DeForest Park or Dominguez Gap.

Overall, the agency stakeholders and river interest groups have collaborated on ensuring that the studies will complement each other and, if implemented, the studies will provide the longest wetland restoration along the Los Angeles River.



LOS ANGELES RIVER GUIDELINES

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works is in the process of finalizing the Los Angeles River Landscape Planting and Signage Guideline Manuals. Both manuals are proposed in the Master Plan for providing a uniform river identity. It is not the intent of the guidelines to limit creativity within landscape and signage projects, but rather facilitate the design with recommended features that can be integrated with the projects.

As river projects continue to be developed, there is also a need for understanding the proper care of native landscaping along the flood control facilities. Thus, Public Works will also be preparing a Landscape Maintenance Manual. The manual would provide procedures for maintaining various improvements, as identified in the Landscape Planting Guidelines, in a user-friendly manner with identification photos and diagrams.

Maintenance specifications would be provided for the care of each plant association listed in the Landscape Planting guidelines, and for the management of the watering and irrigation system. In addition, basic site maintenance requirements would be provided including fertilization and soil amending, periodic soil tests, and pest control. The maintenance requirements would be compiled in a sample maintenance monitoring program with a checklist of features to maintain and a schedule of maintenance frequency.

It is anticipated that river projects will adhere to the guideline manuals, and thus, Public Works will continue to seek the support of stakeholders through the development and implementation of the manuals.

PROPOSITION 204 PROJECTS - WHAT'S NEXT?

In December 2000, the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council announced the recipients of Proposition 204 grants. The Watershed Council assisted in selecting the grantees through the Coastal Conservancy and monitoring the projects through completion. The projects included:

Los Angeles River Bikeway Greenway Planning Study – North East Trees completed the study which identified a feasible bikeway alignment to bridge the 7-mile gap along the river, between downtown Los Angeles and the City of Vernon. North East Trees will continue to gather support among the affected agencies and community to implement the study.

Sampling of Taylor Yard – The River Project lead the effort to develop a baseline groundwater/surface flow model. The model will be used for the Taylor Yard project constituents as they determine the alternative uses for the area.

Tujunga Wash Hydrodynamic Study – The study resulted in the development of a hydrodynamic model of the Tujunga Wash to be used for identifying potential restoration opportunities. The River Project proposes to continue a second phase study, of the Tujunga Wash, which would address the concerns identified in the first study - 1) stormwater management; 2) feasibility elements like reducing flow velocities; 3) refine the Hydrodynamic Model; 4) the fluvial process in the Tujunga Wash System, and 5) prioritization of rehabilitation efforts.

South Gate Riparian Habitat Restoration Project – North East Trees finalized their study which identified three master plan concepts - 1) Existing Conditions; 2) Biofiltration Plan; 3) Detention Plan, and 4) Relocated Levee. North East Trees is looking forward to working with a lead agency that would be interested in assisting with the project development.

NATION-WIDE LOS ANGELES RIVER INTEREST



MASTER PLAN PRESENTATION AT THE 2002 WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION CONFERENCE

Constructing a greenway along the Los Angeles River is not an easy task. However, since the adoption of the Master Plan, the river revitalization has become a more facilitated effort with extensive planning and coordination among the affected jurisdictions. The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works took the opportunity to share this effort with nationwide organizations in February at the 2002 Water Environment Federation (WEF) Conference in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. WEF is a worldwide educational organization that is focused on preserving and enhancing the global water environment.

At the conference, most WEF participants had never heard of the Los Angeles River and others only recognized it as a large, dry sewer channel. However, from Public Works' presentation, the participants were educated on the Master Plan development, its implementation, and its outstanding issues. This educational outreach effort may promote other organizations to model their projects after the Los Angeles River restoration. Also, the conference presentation will result in further respect, understanding, and support for Angelenos' river restoration efforts.



Kathleen Bullard, of the MRCA, leads Harvard's River Presentation at the River Center and Gardens.

STUDENTS ARE CHALLENGED BY THE LOS ANGELES RIVER

The Los Angeles River has received nationwide public attention due to the complexity of revitalizing a concrete channel in an urban environment. Universities, such as Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania, have even challenged their landscape architecture students to develop river restoration designs. Local students have also studied the river through a design charette, which was organized by the Southern California Institute of Architects to examine opportunities for the river through downtown Los Angeles. The Friends of the Los Angeles River plan to continue this effort, and in Fall 2002 they should be conducting a student design charette for the river through Long Beach.

In January 2002, Harvard students presented their visions for a river greenway between downtown Los Angeles and the City of Vernon. The students' work was funded by the Mountains Recreation and Conser-

vation Authority, who also assisted with organizing educational seminars by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Metropolitan Transit Authority, and other river interest groups. The students, as are everyday river activists, were faced with the difficulty of balancing river opportunities, such as recreation, river connectivity, and habitat restoration, while trying to ensure adequate flood protection. The students' completed conceptual plans were thought-provoking pieces of artwork that may not be ready for implementation; but, the students agree that it is possible that their visions may become a reality within a couple of decades.

Nonetheless, students continue to join in the river revitalization effort by presenting fresh ideas and inspiring other activists to not lose focus on the proposed 51-mile greenway.

Los Angeles River Master Plan RIVER FUNDING BULLETIN

Grantor	Purpose	Deadline	Contact
Cottonwood Foundation	Supports projects that protect the environment, promote cultural diversity, empower people to meet their basic needs, and rely on volunteer efforts.	year-round	Cottonwood Foundation Box 10803 White Bear Lake, MN 55110 (651) 426-8797 www.cottonwoodfdn.org
The James Irvine Foundation (\$10K to \$4million)	Supports projects that benefit the economy, the environment, and all levels of California's diverse population.	year-round	The James Irvine Foundation 725 South Figueroa S., Ste. 3075 Los Angeles, CA 90017 (213) 236-0552 www.irvine.org
Edison International	Supports projects that resolve important environmental challenges while enhancing economic vitality and sustainability.	Applications accepted in October 2002	Southern California Edison Environmental Affairs 2244 Walnut Grove Avenue Rosemead, CA 91765 (626) 302-1212 www.edison.com
McCarthy Family Foundation	Supports projects that promote the preservation and restoration of local natural areas.	March 15 or September 15	Jane D. McCarthy P.O. Box 27389 San Diego, CA 92198 http://fdncenter.org/grantmaker/mccarthy/index.html
LEF Foundation	Supports projects of creative merit in the fields of architecture, design, literature, and other arts.	Letters of Intent: 1/17/03	Jenee Misraje (LEF Foundation) 1095 Lodi Lane Saint Helena, CA 94574 www.lef-foundation.org
California Community Foundation	Supports projects that improve the physical structure and enhance the neighborhood environment.	year-round	CACommunity Foundation 445 S. Figueroa St., Ste. 3400 Los Angeles, CA 90071 (213) 413-4130 www.calfund.org
California State Parks	<u>Habitat Conservation Fund</u> For anadromous, wetlands habitat, riparian habitat, and trails programs. <u>Recreational Trails Program</u> For trails and trails-related projects <u>Non-Motorized Trails Grant Programs</u> For increased recreational opportunities.	10/01/02	Office of Grants and Local Svcs. P.O. Box 942896 Sacramento, CA 94296 (916) 653-7423 www.parks.ca.gov

STATUS OF LOS ANGELES RIVER MASTER PLAN PROJECTS

PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION	COMPLETION DATE	PROPOSERS
COMPLETED PROJECTS			
Elysian Valley Gateway Park	Community Park development at Knox Avenue by the River Rangers.	1996	SMMC
Ventura Boulevard Landscape	River landscaping on south bank at Ventura Boulevard and Kelsey Street.	1996	Richard Deblasi, community resident
Rattlesnake Park	Development of pocket park featuring river rock walls, native landscaping, and benches adjacent to the Los Angeles River at Fletcher Drive.	1997	NET
1997 Earth Day Event	Tree planting along the River at Coldwater Canyon Avenue.	April 1997	LACDPW, City of Los Angeles
City of LA, Bikeway Phase 1A	Bikeway from Riverside Drive to Los Feliz Boulevard.	September 1997	MTA, LADOT
LA River Greenway II	Tree planting and landscaping from Los Feliz Boulevard to Barclay Street.	September 1997	NET, SMMC
Golden Shore Marine Reserve	A 5-year wetlands restoration demonstration project. The study will be completed in January 2003.	January 1998	City of Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine Dept.
1998 Earth Day Event	Tree planting at Valleyheart Drive off Whitsett Avenue.	April 1998	LACDPW, City of Los Angeles
Egret Park	Development of park adjacent to River near Barclay Street.	Spring 1998	NET, MRCA
Amtrak Project	Fencing/hydroseeding Washington Boulevard to 4th Street.	1998	Amtrak
1999 Earth Day Event	River cleanup event in Elysian Valley (at NET's rattlesnake park) and a dedication of the Great Heron Gate at the Fletcher Drive access to the River.	April 1999	LACDPW, City of Los Angeles, FoLAR, USACE, others
Los Feliz Riverwalk	Installation and maintenance of walk from Sunnynook Drive footbridge to Chevy Chase Drive.	July 1999	NET
LA River Center and Gardens	Development of 6.8 acres of former Lawry's Center into an interpretive center.	March 2000	MRCA
2000 Earth Day Event	50 sycamore and cottonwood tree planting on Wrigley Greenbelt on DeForest Avenue between Spring Street and Willow Street.	April 2000	LACDPW, City of Long Beach
Stealhead park	Development of park adjacent to River and Oros Street.	April 2000	NET, MRCA
Oso Park	Development of park at the corner of Riverside Drive and Oros Street.	April 2000	NET, MRCA
LA River County Bikeway Improvements	Bike trail improvements along Southern Avenue, from Atlantic Boulevard to Southern Avenue.	May 2000	LACDPW
Julia Russ Asmus Park	Development of park at Jaboneria Street and Shull Street.	August 2000	City of Bell Gardens, TPL, MRCA
Southern Avenue Bikeway and Park	Bikeway improvements along Southern Avenue, from Atlantic Boulevard to the River and development of park at the corner of Atlantic Boulevard and Southern Avenue.	August 2000	City of Bell Gardens, TPL, MRCA
City of LA, Bikeway Phase 1-D	Bikeway from Los Feliz Boulevard to Fletcher Drive.	August 2000	MTA, LADOT

PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION	COMPLETION DATE	PROPONENTS
COMPLETED PROJECTS			
La River Gateway Improvements	Enhancements to access points, including landscaping and amenities to the LA County Bikeway at Gage Avenue and Florence Avenue.	November 2000	City of Bell
River Garden Park	Park depicting Los Angeles River at the River Center and Gardens.	November 2000	SMMC, MRCA
Water with Rocks Gates	Installation of decorative gates on the east side of the River, north of Fletcher Drive.	April 2001	NET
2001 Earth Day Event	Landscaping of south side of the River, between Laurel Canyon and Radford Avenue in Studio City.	April 2001	LACDPW, SD3, SCRA, TRP
Los Angeles River Bikeway/Greenway Study	Study to identify a bikeway and greenway alignment that would connect the river between downtown Los Angeles and the City of Vernon.	March 2002	NET, LACBC
South Gate Restoration Project	Study to determine restoration alternatives for the west side of the River, south of Imperial Highway.	March 2002	NET, City of South Gate
Taylor Yard Sampling	Sampling of Taylor Yard site, including preparation of groundwater/surface flow model.	March 2002	TRP
Tujunga Wash Hydrodynamic Study	Hydrodynamic Study of Tujunga Wash for potential restoration sites.	March 2002	TRP
Baum Bicycle Bridge	Construction of bikeway bridge over River at Los Feliz Boulevard.	July 2002	LADOT, MTA
ADOPT-A-RIVER PROJECTS			
Ernie's Walk	Ernie LaMere landscaped and maintained a 1/4-mile section along the north side of the River in Sherman Oaks (between Kester and Cedros Avenues).	September 1992	Ernie LaMere, Community resident
Village Gardeners	The Village Gardeners landscaped and maintain both sides of the River between Fulton and Coldwater Canyon Avenues.	1999	Village Gardeners
PROJECTS IN DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION			
Cesar Chavez Park	Development of a multiuse park in downtown Long Beach.		City of Long Beach
Chinatown/Cornfields	Acquisition and development of 32-acre site into a State Park.		TPL, State Department of Parks and Recreation
City of Glendale's Riverwalk	Development of a Riverwalk parkway.		City of Glendale
DeForest Study	Restoration study at DeForest Nature Center and at the 6th Street site in Long Beach.		City of Long Beach
Dominguez Gap	Development of wetlands study.		LACDPW
LA River Greenway	Landscaping from Whitsett Avenue to Laurel Canyon.		City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks
LA River Greenway (Taylor Yard to Sunnynook)	Landscaping of a greenway from Taylor Yard to Sunnynook.		DOT, DWP, NET
Laurel Canyon to Radford Landscaping Project	Landscaping of 1/4-mile stretch on south side of the River in Studio City.		LACDPW, SD3, TRP, SCRA
Maywood Riverfront Park	Development of a 7-acre park along the River at Slauson Avenue.		City of Maywood, TPL
Outdoor Classrooms	Classrooms at LA River, Compton Creek, and Arroyo Seco.		MRCA
Paramount's River Murals	Two murals completed in spring 1999 and spring 2000, and a third is being proposed.		City of Paramount
Tujunga Wash Restoration	Restoration of Tujunga Wash between Vanowen Boulevard to Oxnard Boulevard.		LACDPW, MRCA, SD3